



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, April 24, 2003

Contact: Kristin Rieber  
Toll Free: (866) 262-7307

## Patterson: Momentum Gains to Eradicate Emerald Ash Borer

*Senate adopts Senate Resolution 49 Seeking Federal Assistance in Dealing with Emerald Ash Borer*

**LANSING** – Senate Resolution (SR) 49, authored and introduced by Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, unanimously passed the Senate on April 23. SR 49 is a resolution urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Agriculture to provide assistance in the effort to deal with the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer, Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, announced.

The 7<sup>th</sup> district, which Senator Patterson represents, is one of the communities that has been hit the hardest by the beetle. “This beetle is destroying our ash trees at a rapid rate. We need to move quickly to protect as many trees as possible. Michigan Senators share in my concern and are in full support of the resolution. Now it’s time for Congress to take action. We need the technical and financial assistance from Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture in order to accomplish this goal.”

The Emerald Ash Borer, an aggressive Asian insect, is rapidly threatening virtually all of the ash trees in Michigan. There are as many as a billion ash trees in the state. Six southeastern Michigan counties, including Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne, have been quarantined. The beetle has killed 5 million of the 28 million ash trees in the quarantined area.

The quarantine on all ash trees and ash wood products, including firewood, is in effect in all 6 affected counties to prevent and control its spread. Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, lumber, firewood, and wood chips larger than one inch in diameter outside the six counties.

The Emerald Ash Borer belongs to a group of insects known as metallic wood-boring beetles. Adults are dark metallic green in color and ½ inch in length and 1/6 inch wide, and are only present from mid May until late July. Larvae are creamy white in color and are found under the bark. Usually their presence goes undetected until the trees show symptoms of infestation. The first sign is typically a display of the upper third of a tree dying back first, followed by the rest the next year.